

v. H. I did not act on "misinformation," as Dr. Von Hoffman stated; I had a substantial basis for my accusations and this basis is the sworn testimony of Dr. v. H., given on the witness stand during the trial. Through a peculiar incident, though I lost almost my whole library and all the records, etc., in the fire, the transcript of testimony of Dr. Von Hoffman, Dr. Bell and Dr. Putnam was saved. Page 34 of this transcript is found:

Direct examination of Dr. Von Hoffman, called for the plaintiff, sworn.

Mr. Burt (attorney for the plaintiff). Q. Do you know Mrs. B., one of the plaintiffs here?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember her having gone to see you some time in September, 1897, for the purpose of consulting you in regard to her trouble?

(The operation was performed in the latter part of September. Dr. Kreutzmann.)

A. I do not remember it.

Q. Do you know a lady named Mrs. M.?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you remember Mrs. B. having gone to your office with Mrs. M. about that time in 1897?

A. I do not remember.

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Q. Have you made an examination of Mrs. B. at any time that you can remember?

A. Yes, sir; after I saw you, after you came to my office and asked to send Mrs. B. to me, I examined her again, at my office.

Q. Was that after you stated that you could not remember her first visit?

A. Yes, sir.

Cross-examination of Dr. Charles Von Hoffman. Page 37:

Mr. Loewy (defendant's attorney). Q. At what time do you remember that you examined Mrs. B.?

A. I do not remember the date. It was after her lawyer came to me.

This sworn testimony is a direct contradiction of his entire statement. In his statement Dr. v. H. knows that the woman came to him prior to the operation; he remembered that in 1910. But he swore on the witness stand that he does not remember of such a visit. In his statement Dr. v. H. avers, that the plaintiff's lawyer came to him after he, Dr. v. H., had made two examinations of Mrs. B. In his testimony he states twice, that he examined Mrs. B. only after her lawyer came to him.

Only one of the two utterances of Dr. Von Hoffman can be true, either the statement or the sworn testimony. I will not believe that Dr. Von Hoffman perjured himself. I will take the charitable view, that Dr. Von Hoffman told the truth as he swore he would do; that his statement in the "Journal" is a feeble attempt to set himself right before his colleagues.

Furthermore Dr. v. H. did not testify about the facts in the case at the time of the operation or prior thereto, for the simple reason that he denied any knowledge of the case at that time. Plaintiff's lawyer wanted theoretical testimony to the effect that it was easy to make a diagnosis of a fibroid tumor, such as found on Mrs. B. and that a physician employing ordinary care and skill should have made the diagnosis as Dr. Von Hoffman did.

Dr. v. H. examined the woman half a year after the operation; then the question of an ovarian tumor and of pregnancy had been settled; a mere tyro could then have made the diagnosis, but Dr. v. H. does not hesitate to answer the question:

Q. Was there any difficulty then in distinguishing between the nature of the trouble and an ovarian tumor?

A. No, sir.

Q. Could any physician exercising ordinary care and skill in the profession, distinguish between the two?

A. I think he would have found the same as I found, that it was an enlargement of the uterus.

(This last question was given after some talk about "ordinary care and skill." Some of the answers of Dr. v. H. were as follows):

A. I do not think there would be much difficulty.

A. I do not think it would be very difficult to distinguish between an enlargement of the uterus and an ovarian tumor.

And so merrily on!

To anyone who has any knowledge of the ways, in which "expert testimony" is secured, it is clear, that a lawyer will not risk to put a witness on the stand, before he has gone over the subject with the would-be expert, a sort of rehearsal goes on; plaintiffs' shrewd lawyer did not waste his visits (note plural in Dr. v. H.'s statement) to ask about facts; he made sure that Dr. Von Hoffman was willing to answer the theoretical questions in such a way as he needed them.

When a person sues for damages for an injury received in an accident, it is well within the lines of medical ethics, that a physician should examine such a person upon request of a lawyer in order to get evidence and to be enabled to go on the witness stand.

But, when a physician is sued for damages for alleged malpractice (most of which are instituted from hate, spite, malevolence or for blackmailing purposes) the case is entirely different. No one physician on earth is exempt from errors of judgment in diagnosing and treating patients; it is the duty of every practitioner to keep this well in mind constantly; it is the duty of an ethical physician to do his utmost to prevent a malpractice-suit against a fellow practitioner. It is one of the most contemptible, most sordid breaches of medical ethics to encourage, to aid and to assist a suit for alleged malpractice against a colleague.

It had been my intention to make formal charges against Dr. Von Hoffman before the Committee on Ethics of the San Francisco County Medical Society. As the case was not decided by the Supreme Court for years, I forgot about that. I would not have written this "Correction" but for the fact, that Dr. Von Hoffman's name appeared, some time ago, as one to open a discussion of a paper, read before the San Francisco County Medical Society.

I do not know the exact procedure in such a case, but I consider it a distinction, an honor to be called upon to open a discussion. The San Francisco County Medical Society stands for professional decency; no body of decent medical men can afford to show any distinction at its disposal to any one who is guilty of gross breach of medical ethics.

Heretofore, in my paper, "History of a Lawsuit," I have merely made a statement of the case; Dr. Von Hoffman has made a statement; one man's word is as good as another's. But now through the sworn testimony of Dr. v. H., I have shown that his statement is a fabrication from beginning to end, that Dr. Von Hoffman stands convicted, through his own testimony, of the grave charges I made against him. I bring these facts to the cognizance of the officers and members of the San Francisco County Medical Society. As far as I am concerned Dr. Von Hoffman may continue to be a member of this organization; but I do protest against any further distinction or honor being shown Dr. v. H. Any such act would be an insult to every decent member of the San Francisco County Medical Society; it would put the San Francisco County Medical Society on a very low standing and would render the Committee on Medical Ethics a ridiculous farce.

Sincerely yours,

DR. HENRY J. KREUTZMANN.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS EXAMINATIONS.

The Surgeon-General of the Army announces that preliminary examinations for appointment of first lieutenants in the Army Medical Corps will be held

on July 10, 1911, and September 5, 1911, at points to be hereafter designated.

Full information concerning these examinations can be procured upon application to the "Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C." The essential requirements to securing an invitation are that the applicant shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be between 22 and 30 years of age, a graduate of a medical school legally authorized to confer the degree of doctor of medicine, shall be of good moral character and habits, and shall have had at least one year's hospital training, after graduation. The examinations will be held concurrently throughout the country at points where boards can be convened. Due consideration will be given to localities from which applications are received, in order to lessen the traveling expenses of applicants as much as possible.

The examination in subjects of general education (mathematics, geography, history, general literature, and Latin) may be omitted in the case of applicants holding diplomas from reputable literary or scientific colleges, normal schools or high schools, or graduates of medical schools which require an entrance examination satisfactory to the faculty of the Army Medical School.

In order to perfect all necessary arrangements for the examination, applications must be complete and in possession of the Adjutant-General at least three weeks before the date of examination. Early attention is therefore enjoined upon all intending applicants. There are at present sixty-one vacancies in the Medical Corps of the Army.

THE LANE MEDICAL LECTURES FOR 1911.

The Lane Medical Lectures were founded in 1896 by Dr. Levi Cooper Lane, then President of Cooper Medical College. They consist of a "free course of lectures on medical subjects by men distinguished at home or abroad for their work in either medicine or surgery, and are intended for medical students and the medical profession at large."

The Directors of Cooper Medical College have invited Dr. Ernest Fuchs, Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Vienna, for the course of 1911. The course will consist of ten lectures and demonstrations to be given in Lane Hall of Cooper Medical College during the week beginning August 21st. The program is as follows:

- August 21st—11 a. m. Operations on the Eye.
4:30 p. m. The Eye in Tabes.
- August 22nd—11 a. m. Trachoma.
4:30 p. m. The Eye in Tabes.
- August 23rd—11 a. m. Tumors of the Eye.
4:30 p. m. The Eye in Brain Affections.
- August 24th—11 a. m. General Symptomatology.
4:30 p. m. The Eye in Brain Affections.
- August 25th—11 a. m. Corneal Ulcers.
4:30 p. m. The anatomical and functional development of the eye from its lowest to its highest type, through the animal kingdom.

All of these lectures are intended for the general practitioner as well as the specialist. The lectures will be delivered in English in Lane Hall, San Francisco, and will be fully illustrated. Members of the medical profession, including students of medicine, are cordially invited to attend.

The previous courses of Lane Medical Lectures have been given as follows:

Sir William MacEwen, M. D., Regius Professor, University of Glasgow.—"Surgery of the Brain."

Christopher Heath, F. R. C. S., England, Professor of Clinical Surgery, University College, London.—"Congenital Malformations, Aneurism, and Other Surgical Topics."

Thomas Clifford Allbutt, M. D., F. R. S., Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge, England.—"Diseases of the Heart."

Nicholas Senn, M. D., Ph. L. L. D., Professor of Surgery, Rush Medical College.—"Topics in General Surgery."

Sir Michel Foster, K. C. V., D. C. L., Professor of Physiology, Cambridge, England.—"History of Physiology."

Sir Malcolm Morris, F. R. C. S., Edinburg, M. R. C. S., England, Surgeon to the Skin Department, St. Mary's Hospital, London.—"Social Aspects of Dermatology."

Sir Charles B. Ball, M. Ch., F. R. C. S., Ireland, Regius Professor of Surgery, University of Dublin.—"Diseases of the Rectum."

Oscar H. Allis, M. D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.—"Dislocations and Fractures Involving Larger Bones."

William H. Welch, M. D., L. L. D., Professor of Pathology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.—"Infection and Immunity."

Sir Patrick Manson, K. C. M. G., F. R. S., etc.—"Tropical Diseases."

John C. McVail, M. D., D. P. H., Cambridge, Glasgow.—"Practical Hygiene, Epidemics and Preventive Medicine."

Reginald Heber Fitz, M. D., L. L. D., Hersey Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine, Harvard University, Boston, Mass.—"A Consideration of Some Features of the Lymphatic System."

Subsequent courses of Lane Medical lectures will be under the auspices of the Medical Department of Leland Stanford Jr. University.

In Error.

On page 178 of the June issue appears the name of C. Thornton, San Diego, under New Members; it should read A. J. Thornton.

NEW MEMBERS.

Gundry, F. J., Bakersfield.
Long, S. F., Bakersfield.
Stice, T. H., San Jose.
Durgin, E. H., Cupertino.
Pius, Chas., Montague.
Shaul, J. W., Santa Ana.
Sheldon, D. W., Perris.
Keck, W. H., Santa Cruz.
Graham, R. W., Los Angeles.
McNeile, L. G., Los Angeles.
Deering, W. E., Los Angeles.
Hooker, M. O., San Francisco.
Evans, Morris, San Francisco.
Topham, Ed., San Francisco.
Knapp, Edw. V., San Francisco.
Green, A. S., San Francisco.
Beasley, S. O., San Francisco.
Parsons, E. W., San Francisco.
Ragland, W. A., San Francisco.
Waiss, A. S., San Francisco.
Sperry, M. A., San Francisco.
Williamson, Wm. P., San Diego.
Riehl, W. F. W., San Diego.
Trueblood, W. E., Maricopa.
Cook, W. H., McKittrick.
Smith, S. F., Bakersfield.

DEATHS.

Caldwell, Robt., San Jose.
Bowie, Robt. I., formerly of San Francisco; died in Nagasaki, Japan.
Smith, Wm. S., Ocean Park, Cal.
Blake, S. L., San Francisco.
Bellows, C. S., Artesia.
Parker, T. Van V., Soldiers' Home (Los Angeles County).
Elster, L. A., Alameda.
Withers, Richard J., Los Angeles.
Rutledge, A. J., Greenville, Cal.
Orr, A. C., Whittier, Cal.
Watenpugh, J. W., Weaverville.